

David Cheal

CTO / Principal Consultant

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 [David Cheal CV \(PDF\)](#)

I'm a hands-on CTO / Principal Consultant who enables businesses to succeed, by establishing secure, scalable and cost-effective technology. Over 12+ years I've led AWS migrations, built consultancies (one acquired by Deloitte), and delivered secure, high-availability systems in finance and ecommerce. I now run my own business, building an AI-driven education platform end-to-end. I'm practical, delivery-focused, and comfortable owning both technical decisions and commercial outcomes.

Core Strengths

Cloud architecture & delivery

AWS-first design, migrations/modernisation, scalable systems, reliability/cost control, serverless

Engineering leadership

Hands-on CTO, pragmatic delivery, hiring/mentoring, stakeholder management

Security & governance

Least privilege, DevSecOps, controls, platform hardening, risk-based decision making

Product engineering

TypeScript/Node backend, React SPA, CI/CD, monorepos, testing, vendor service integration

AI integration

LLM workflow/orchestration design, prompt/tooling patterns, production concerns (quality, cost, observability), governance and security

Professional Experience

Director — Thermite Consulting

2020–Present

Founded and operated a product-focused company; hands-on across architecture, engineering, security, delivery, and commercial decisions.

Consulting Services

- Merger and Acquisition, technology assessments
- Cybersecurity assessments and uplifts, including mission-critical systems for ASX trading and accounting platforms.
- Application and DevSecOps solutions development for financial loans platform

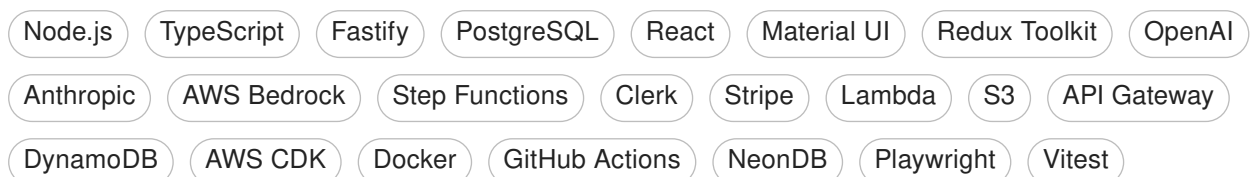
Product Development

Nitpick.help

AI-driven student assessment platform (in Beta).

- A multi-tenant SaaS platform that uses LLM workflows to generate grading, learning plans and learning content.
- Designed and implemented end-to-end platform foundations: authentication, authorisation, payments, CI/CD, observability, and automated testing.
- Built LLM orchestration pipelines using workflow automation (Step Functions) and provider SDK integrations.
- Large scale research into LLM grading capabilities, response bias, content/response consistency and feedback loops for LLM self assessment.
- Developed internal tools for synthetic test data generation and quality testing of grading pipelines.

Technologies



Maverick

AI Software Development Framework | Open Source

- An open-source Claude Code plugin and CLI that enforces quality, security, and operational best practices during autonomous AI-driven development

- 28 built-in skills covering logging, alerting, testing, CI/CD, git workflows, and security governance; plus an upskill system that auto-generates project-specific guidance by scanning the codebase
- Autonomous agents for code review, testing, and technical documentation — isolated from implementation to avoid self-assessment bias
- Dual workflow modes: fully autonomous (from GitHub issues) and guided (with human checkpoints at design/planning phases), plus local task support without requiring GitHub
- Enforcement hooks that prevent dangerous operations (commits to protected branches, secret exposure) at the tool-call level
- Built with Python 3.10+, boto3, Jinja2; includes optional AWS infrastructure provisioning for remote autonomous workers

Python

boto3

Jinja2

Claude Code

GitHub Actions

Co-Founder / Director / Lead Architect — NC Group

2017–2020

Created a consultancy to deliver ecommerce and ordering/delivery platforms (team ~8 engineers, including offshore staff).

- Led architecture and hands-on implementation of a scalable serverless AWS platform.
- Established delivery practices around automation, DevSecOps and agile execution.
- Managed key client relationships; led hiring and delivery staffing (local + offshore).

Director / CTO / Lead Architect — Strut Digital

2014–2017

Grew from ~4 to ~25 staff over 3 years; delivered a wide range of AWS projects (from small builds to complex regulated/high-availability environments). Business ultimately acquired by Deloitte.

- CTO/lead architect for client engagements: solution design, technical leadership, delivery oversight.
- Designed and implemented AWS platforms across ecommerce, banking, and airline-related systems (incl. work involving Qantas systems).
- Partnered with Amazon Web Services sales and stakeholders to support adoption and migration programs.
- Shared responsibility for operations: hiring, contracts, finance/legal, vendor management.

Co-Founder / Principal Consultant — Krunchtime

2013–2014

Started an AWS migration and implementation consultancy (2 founders, later hired junior engineer) during early AWS adoption in Australia.

- Owned solution design and hands-on delivery across core AWS services and automation.
- Ran client management and business operations alongside delivery.

Career Timeline

